Together for Quality
Alabama Medicaid Agency
STATUS REPORT
July 11, 2007

I.   **Policy Workgroup**
The Policy Workgroup met via conference call on June 11, 2007. The primary focus of the meeting was the selection of the State Agency to participate in the pilot for establishment of interoperability between state agencies. After discussing three concepts: eligibility intake and determination, care management and client database/program referral; consensus was reached that the client database/program referral system operated by the Department of Senior Services would be the best to include in the pilot. A report was prepared and submitted to the Steering Committee for approval.

Report submitted by Agency Co-chair: Kathy Hall;   Community Co-chair: Mike Horsley

II. **Finance Workgroup**
Other than participation in the development of the Request for Proposal (RFP), the Finance Workgroup has had no activity since last month.

III. **Privacy Workgroup**
Other than participation in the development of the Request for Proposal (RFP), the Privacy Workgroup has had no activity since last month.

IV. **Technical Workgroup**
As of today, the Technical Workgroup has met all required objectives in accordance with our assigned list of tasks. The Technical Workgroup has held weekly conference calls to discuss and resolve issues.

Technical Workgroup submitted a middleware Enterprise Service Bus (EBS) on how the Alabama Department of Finance Information Services Division (ISD) Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Alabama sees its role in this project. TFQ grant funds were approved by the TFQ Project Manager pending the final approval of the Commissioner for the outright purchase of BizTalk by bid through State Purchasing and ISD.

Citrix® Presentation Server software was approved by the TFQ Steering Committee to be purchased by bid and outright owned by the Agency in implementing this TFQ project.

Agency Co-chair Lee Maddox

V. **Clinical Workgroup**

The Clinical Workgroup held conference calls on June 13th and June 27th. The focus of the June 13th call was on the finalization of the Asthma QI measures. Changes had been recommended by Dr. Allen Meadows following the May 30th conference call and sent out to workgroup members via email. After discussion by members the following measures were chosen as the final measures for adults and children:

1. **Asthma Controller Use** – 1a) Percentage of patients with an ED visit and/or hospital admission who subsequently fill <1 prescription every three months for an inhaled steroid, either alone or in combination, 1b) Percentage of patients who fill >2 short acting bronchodilator prescriptions every year who subsequently fill <1 prescription every three months for an inhaled steroid, either alone or in combination, or fill < 2 prescriptions every three months for leukotriene modifiers or mast cell stabilizers.
2. **Annual Influenza Immunization** – Percentage of patients with an asthma diagnosis who receive an influenza immunization during each calendar year
3. **Emergency Department Visits** – Percentage of patients with an asthma diagnosis who have ≥1 ED visit during a calendar year
4. **Hospitalization** – Percentage of patients with an asthma diagnosis who have ≥1 inpatient admission for asthma treatment during a calendar year.

The June 27th call focused on the review of the TFQ Milestones related to the Clinical Workgroup and on the review of the results for the chosen diabetes baseline measures. In addition, a request to consider a change in the meeting time was brought to the group. An email vote was to be obtained of Clinical Workgroup members with the time to be sent to all members by COB, Friday, July 6th. Based on a review of the milestones in Outcome II, a request to move #7 through #10 by one month was to be made at the next co-chair meeting. It was noted that there was a delay in pulling the baseline data as a result of the need for review, modifications and re-review as needed and as a result of the complexity of the process. It is anticipated that the diabetes and asthma baseline data will be finalized by the end of July which will require an adjustment in the timeline from the original due date of June.

The meeting dates for the month of July for Clinical are **July 11th and July 25th**. The time will be either 4:00pm or 5:00pm and is to be based on votes from members received by COB on July 5th.

Next Steps for Clinical

- Establish criteria for inclusion/exclusion for the provider pilot group
- Discuss care management plan and interventions

Agency Co-chair Dr. Mary G. McIntyre, Additional Co-chairs Drs. Christine Ritchie and John Searcy

VI.   Second Solicitation

The Agency did submit a second grant proposal for additional transformation grant funds. The project description is below. CMS expects to make award announcements no later than September 30, 2007.

> **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** ALMA operates a managed care system for the maternity population. Through this grant, ALMA is proposing the creation of a web-based patient profile clinical and social database that will allow the maternity case managers to collect patient specific information beginning with basics such as gestational age at time of entry into care, mothers' weight gain, previous OB history (e.g. pre-term births), co-morbid conditions, birth outcomes, and infant weight as well as social issues that may affect the health of the mother and baby. Upon the infant's birth, the data will be augmented to include tracking of the baby's medical development including identification of potential social and emotional developmental needs. All of the information contained in this database will be available through the overall HIS. The HIS will now have available a comprehensive compendium of information, claims and clinical, that will aid healthcare providers in making informed decisions about patient care, particularly infants at risk for prematurity and for developmental delays and disabilities. The overall goal is to improve outcomes and quality of life while decreasing costs.

VII.   Request for Proposals (RFP) for Vendor Services

The RFP was released on June 28, 2007. Vendor questions were received through July 9, 2007 and the pre-proposal conference will be July 13, 2007. The Agency is pursuing a very aggressive schedule with bids due August 2, 2007, with award being tentatively made by August 17th. The contract does have to be approved by the Legislative Contract Review Committee before finalization. The Agency appreciates the efforts of everyone involved in getting the RFP written and published.

The next Stakeholder Meeting will be August 12, 2007 at 1:00 pm in the Medicaid Boardroom.